

# MIND TO MIND

Creative writing that explores the abstract side  
of our profession and our lives

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## Anesthesia Checklist

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### Anesthesia Checklist

#### Prepare:

- machines and supplies as an extension of you  
a connection, so you can hear your unconscious patient  
talk to you in ways profound and vital

#### Confirm:

- the patient's identity  
that web of relationships, experiences earned or yearned  
spun with a thousand threads, some frayed, some hidden  
whose innermost knot is mystery

#### Acknowledge:

- the patient's fear tethered like a beast in a nearly sealed cavern  
ready to rouse, frenzied and wild, especially at the call: *open your eyes!*
- the patient's gift, wrapped in wariness by the family  
yet inside nestles trust, shy at being given to you, a stranger

#### Ensure:

- the surgeon, looking at you, eyes above masks, sees you  
and sees the nurse

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## Consider:

- the patient's wellbeing  
translated into the pulse of ocean waves  
reassuring in its relentlessness
- what to do if the ocean stops

## Verify:

- your readiness to stick, suck, squeeze, switch, screw, twist, tie,  
probe, poke, push, plunge, lift, click, wipe, glide, corral,  
inflate, deflate, placate, titrate, direct, triple check and  
above all, listen

## Render:

- yourself as a wingspread bird set to soar on thermals  
adjusting to the tiniest puffs  
even in the middle of the bright blue sky